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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,214	03/02/2004	Wael Chahrouh	1867-0053	3948

7590 11/03/2005  
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Indianapolis, IN 46204

EXAMINER

TWEEL JR, JOHN ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2636

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/791,214	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CHAHROUR ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> John A. Tweel, Jr.	<b>Art Unit</b> 2636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-12 and 15-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in France on 3/3/03. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 0302579 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Tanguay et al** [U.S. 6,288,638].

For claim 1, the system for detecting fire or overheating taught by **Tanguay** includes the following claimed subject matter, as noted, 1) the claimed sensor is met by the thermistor (No. 56) having a resistance with a selected temperature coefficient, wherein the resistance of the material is indicative of the temperature, and 2) the claimed device connected to the sensor is met by the control unit (No. 52) that performs measurements on the material, wherein the unit determines a voltage from the

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measurements at a node (No. 53) to analyze dynamic behavior to deduce status information including overheating.

For claim 13, the method for detecting fire or overheating taught by **Tanguay** includes the following claimed steps, as noted, 1) the claimed performing measurements on at least one material is achieved using the control unit (No. 52) that performs measurements on a thermistor (No. 56) having a resistance with a selected temperature coefficient, said control unit also, 2) determining a voltage from the measurements, and 3) analyzing a dynamic behavior to deduce status information including overheating by generating a heat alarm signal.

For claim 14, the thermistor of Tanguay has a negative temperature coefficient to deduce overheating.

4. Claims 2-12 and 15-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As can be seen in the prior art, a sensor having a temperature coefficient with associated processor is not new in the prior art. However, specific embodiments and properties of the invention, such as the sensor comprising two materials having different

selected temperature coefficients as well as more specific delineations of the malfunction property of the invention, is not to be found in an obvious combination.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Audy** [U.S. 5,225,811] has a pair of comparators for producing an output signal when a temperature exceeds or falls below a range.

**Torikoshi** [U.S. 5,254,975] includes different heat time constants in an active device.

**Yamanashi** [U.S. 5,973,605] is responsive to a plurality of PTCs.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Tweel, Jr. whose telephone number is 571 272 2969. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass can be reached on 571 272 2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAT  
10/29/05



JOHN TWEEL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER